

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 703

INFO GOV PAN CANAL

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USUN NEW YORK 434

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2933

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI UN PN

SUBJ: NEW COMMANDER OF PANAMA'S MIDDLE EAST REPLACEMENT
CONTINGENT NAMED

1. IN A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 21, MAJOR PEDRO C. AYALA HAS BEEN NAMED BY GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS TO REPLACE LT. COL. RUBEN DARIO PAREDES AS THE NEXT COMMANDER OF PANAMA'S UN MIDDLE EAST CONTINGENT. AYALA WAS IMMEDIATELY PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL. THE GENERAL'S DECISION, WHICH CAME ON THE EVE OF THE SCHEDULED MAY 22 DEPARTURE OF PANAMA'S REPLACEMENT CONTINGENT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN RESPONSE TO A NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF REQUEST THAT PAREDES REMAIN AT HOME TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS IN THE CHEPO AREA FOR THE RELOCATION OF PERSONS WHO WILL BE DISPLACED BY THE BAYANO DAM PROJECT.

2. BORN AUGUST 30, 1935, AYALA IS A GRADUATE OF THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND, PRIOR TO HIS PROMOTION TO LT. COLONEL, WAS THE SECOND SENIOR MAJOR IN THE GUARD. HE HAS SERVED AS ZONE COMMANDER IN CHIRIQUI PROVINCE, COMMANDANT OF FT. CIMARRON, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, COMMANDER
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OF THE CAVALRY SQUADRON AND AS ASSISTANT TO CHIEF OF STAFF LT.

COLONEL FLOREZ, THE LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE "PANAMA BATTALION"
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AYALA SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH AND UNDERSTANDS
IT WELL. HE IS AN ACTIVE PARACHUTIST AND HAS ATTENDED SEVERAL
TRAINING COURSES AT U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THE CANAL ZONE.
AYALA IS REGARDED AS GENERALLY PRO-U.S.
JORDEN

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